

East Timor solidarity groups in Japan formed a coalition in April, 1988. As of January, 1989, solidarity groups in Sapporo, Sendai, Tokyo, Nagoya, Osaka, Zentsuji, Okayama, and Kure, as well as the Catholic Justice and Peace Commission, make up the coalition. There is no secretariat, individuals and groups taking responsibility to coordinate specific projects. The coalition cooperates with the Diet Forum on the East Timor Issue.

Main Activities in 1988

1. United Nations Human Rights Commission meeting (Feb.-March)

Jan. 14 Members of solidarity groups, Japan branch of Amnesty International, and Diet League visited the Foreign Ministry and met with the bureau chief of the United Nations Bureau and senior members of the Southeast Asia BBureau. The necessity of a thoroughgoing hearing on human rights abuses in East Timor was stressed as well as the inappropriateness of the Indonesian candidate, Jusuf Wanandi, as a member of the HRC Sub-commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities. A letter addressed to the UN bureau chief from Jose Guterres was handed over.

Jan.-Feb. Postcards addressed to the United Nations Human Rights Commission, prepared by a member of the Sendai group, were distributed by the solidarity groups to be signed and sent to Geneva.

2. Collaboration with the Nuclear-Free and Independent Pacific (NFIP) network in Japan

March 6 Presentation made at the North Pacific Anti-nuclear International Symposium in Tokyo

June Leaflets on East Timor issue distributed in New York by members of Japanese delegation to SSD III.

June 12 Simultaneous action in New York and Tokyo

3. Non-Aligned Movement letter campaign

June Letters from Coalition sent to all the foreign ministers of the NAM member nations urging the rejection of Indonesia's bid to become NAM chair and suggesting diplomatic efforts to convince Indonesia to settle E.T. issue through negotiation.

4. Postcard campaign on behalf of four students in Jakarta--Part II

As follow-up to 1987 campaign, a second postcard (addressed to the Dutch ambassador to Indonesia) and explanatory leaflet were printed by the Osaka group and distributed throughout the solidarity network. Cards signed and sent to Jakarta.

5. Benny Murdani's visit to Japan

June 14 Tokyo solidarity group members requested meeting with Murdani at Indonesian embassy. Meeting refused, letter from Coalition handed over. Reported in Mainichi, Shimbun and AERA magazine.

6. Approaches to Japanese delegate to HRC Sub-commission on Prevention of Discrimination, etc.

June 3 Tokyo member held meeting, presented material to Japanese delegate Hatano Ribo. (In August, TAPOL and CDPM lobbied alternative member Yokota in Geneva). For the first time, Japan abstained in voting on the East Timor issue.

December 9 Follow-up meeting with Hatano attended by Jose Guterres who presented aide memoire on Red Cross activities in E.T.

7. UN Decolonization Committee Meeting

August 12 Diet Forum representative Yamada Kozaburo and Coalition representative Furusawa Kiyoko attended the Decolonization Committee meeting as petitioners and attended solidarity meeting Aug. 13.

8. Approaches to Portuguese Government

June 10 Meeting in Tokyo with newly appointed Portuguese ambassador.

Sept. 20 Meeting with delegation of Portuguese parliamentarians at reception in Tokyo. Sept. 23 Meeting with parliamentarian Silva in Kyoto.

Dec. 13 Jose Guterres meets Portuguese ambassador in Tokyo.

Dec. 8 Meeting with Portuguese member of European Parliament Maria de Lourdes Pintasilgo in Tokyo.

9. Portuguese wine import

Arrangements made for trial import of Portuguese wine (10,000 bottles) to raise funds for Fretilin office in Lisbon.

Shipment expected in Feb. 1989.

10. Collaboration in photo exhibit

Aug. 26-- East Timor photos included in human rights photo exhibit sponsored by the International Movement Against All Forms of Racism and Discrimination. Held at major department store in Tokyo and in Otsu City.

11. Japanese version of "The Shadow Over East Timor" video

June Australian-produced video given Japanese dubbing and distributed by Nagoya branch of Catholic Justice and Peace Commission.

12. Speaking Tour

Nov 19-Dec 9 Jose Gusmao of the Fretilin committee in Darwin and Jose Guterres of the Fretilin committee in Lisbon spoke at public meetings and met the press in 23 cities throughout Japan. They also addressed the Diet Forum on the East Timor Issue and met persons engaged in human rights protection activities.

13. Financial support for radio contact

Support funds sent for running costs incurred by Fretilin Darwin group (¥400,000). Fund-raising leaflet by Osaka group.

Activity planning for 1989 at Coalition Meeting Jan. 14-5

1. UN HRC lobbying

Jan. Postcard campaign as last year
Letter from Coalition to HRC

Jan. 19 Meeting with Foreign Ministry officials in Tokyo (Participants reported that the Foreign Ministry officials came to the meeting much better informed on the issue than they had last year.)

2. Participation in PP21 (People's Alternative Plan for the 21st Century)

Understanding that the Ainu members of PP21 plan to invite an East Timorese to their program in Hokkaido in

August, the Coalition decided to join the PP21 program and facilitate E.T.-related activities there (Aug. 7-13) and in Kyushu (Aug. 24-8), and possibly Yokohama.

Explore possibility of holding exhibit of pictures drawn by E.T. refugee children as part of PP21 (Takahashi/Sendai group coordinates)

3. Diplomacy at Hirohito's funeral (Feb. 24)

Letter to Portuguese Pres. Soares urging him to lobby in Tokyo on behalf of E.T. (Jean/Furusawa) Briefing of press.

4. Continue radio support funds to Darwin

Send ¥100,000 each in April, August, and December. (Kure group coordinates)

5. Takahashi Michio (Sendai) to European solidarity meeting

Feb. 11-12, Copenhagen. Report on activities in Japan, idea for Darwin community project.

6. Oil exploitation in Timor Gap

Masane (Okayama) and Furusawa (Osaka) appointed to coordinate actions, including protest letters to Australian & Indonesian governments, talks with Foreign Ministry (starting at the Jan. 19 meeting), letter to IJC. Support action by European solidary groups as well.

7. IGGI-related campaign

Hold talks with Foreign Ministry before IGGI meeting.
Necessity to launch broad-based campaign around economic aid issue. Discussion postponed until next meeting.

8. Darwin refugee community development project

Project proposed by Takahashi (Sendai) to be researched by him over half-year.